

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:SFPATRICK/MPH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032069

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 032069 ACTION LAGOS 10 FEB

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032069

EO 11652C GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NO, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON GARBA PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: LAGOS 1653

1. DEPARTMENT AGREE THAT NEW NIGERIAN'S ACCOUNT OF GARBA'S FEBRUARY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE IS MORE ACCURAGE THAN WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY KAREN DE YOUNG. THREE USIA OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE DID NOT RECEIVE IMPRESSION THAT GARBA INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT HE EXPECTS EARLY CHANGE OF US POLICY ON ANGOLA.

2. EXACT QUOTE FROM VOA TAPE OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS:

GARBA: HE ASSURED ME HE HAS NOTHING AGAINST THE MPLA, AND IF A TIME COMES WHEN IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CHANGE OR SHIFT AMERICAN POLICY, IT WILL CERTAINLY, UH, HE WILL CERTAINLY DO SO.

DE YOUNG: DI HE GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT THAT WAS LIKELY
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TO HAPPEN?

GARBA: NOT REALLY, NOT REALLY. BUT I THINK IT'S A SHIFT
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION THAT HE EVEN SAID THAT AT ALL.

3. DEPARTMENT CONCURS THAT DEMARCHE IS NOT REQUIRED IN
LAGOS. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, WISH TO INFORM MEA THAT
DEMARCHES ARE BEING MADE IN ALL OTHER AFRICAN CAPITALS.
YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE NOT TRIED TO TELL
GOVERNMENTS WHAT GARBA ACTUALLY SAID OR DID NOT SAY BUT
WE HAVE SOUGHT TO CORRECT MISINPRESSION PUBLISHED IN
WASHINGTON POST HOWEVER IT CAM TO BE.

4. WE ARE CALLING IN NIGERIANS TO INSURE THAT
RECORD IS STRAIGHT.

5. WRAP-UP OF GARBA VISIT BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL, DE YOUNG
ARTICLE BY USINFO. USIA HAS ALREADY POUCHED TAPE
RECORDING OF ENTIRE GARBA NEWS CONFERNCE. INGERSOLL
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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